

Remarks:

Prior to entry of the present amendment, claims 1-15, 17, 18, 20-24, 26 and 28 remained pending in the application.

Claims 1-9, 11-14, 17, 18, 20-23, 26 and 28 stand rejected variously under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claims 10, 15 and 24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 10, 15 and 24 have each been placed in independent form.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Based on Huibers et al.

Claims 1-9, 11-14, 18, 20-23, 26 and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Huibers et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0109821 A1). Claims 1, 8, 14 and 26 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 2, 6, 7, 9 and 18 have been amended.

Huibers et al. discloses a projection display with multiply filtered light. More particularly, Huibers et al. discloses a projection system having two color wheels that overlap at a converging point of light from a light source (see, page 2, paragraph [0035]). In operation, the color wheels rotate independently, each being driven by a different motor (see, page 3, paragraph [0036]). The color wheels remain in the light path, which light path remains unchanged.

Claim 6, as amended, recites a display device including: "an illumination source configured to direct light along an optical path; a first color filter having a first number of color regions; and a second color filter having a second number of color regions; wherein the first and second color filters are disposed on a carriage, the carriage being configured to selectively position either the first color filter or the

second color filter in the optical path such that either the first color filter or the second color filter is alternatively selected to sequentially filter the directed light to display an image.”

Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, however, Huibers et al. does not disclose (or even suggest) a carriage “configured to selectively position either the first color filter or the second color filter in the optical path such that either the first color filter or the second color filter is alternatively selected to sequentially filter the directed light to display an image.” The Examiner refers to shaft 7 (in Fig. 2A of Huibers et al.) as such a carriage. However, shaft 7 does not effect alternative selection of either the first color filter or the second color filter to sequentially filter the directed light. At best, shaft 7 effects sequential filtering by a color wheel 11. There is no selection between the first color filter and the second color filter. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Huibers et al. must be withdrawn.

As amended, claim 7 recites a display device including: “an illumination source configured to direct light along an optical path; a first color filter having a first number of color regions; a second color filter having a second number of color regions; and an optical path director configured to selectively direct the optical path through either the first color filter or the second color filter path such that either the first color filter or the second color filter is alternatively selected to sequentially filter the directed light to display an image.”

The Examiner asserts that light pipe 5 (in Fig. 2A of Huibers et al.) selectively directs the optical path through either the first color filter or the second color filter path. Applicant respectfully disagrees, noting that there is no selectability to light

pipe 5. Accordingly, light pipe 5 cannot provide for either the first color filter or the second color filter to be “alternatively selected” to sequentially filter the directed light as recited in claim 7. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Huibers et al. must be withdrawn.

Amended claim 9 recites a display device including: “an illumination source configured to direct light along an optical path; a first color filter having a first number of color regions; and a second color filter having a second number of color regions; wherein the first and second color filters are coaxially coupled first and second color wheels disposed along a single optical path, are relatively adjustable to be selectively fixed in one of plural specified angular alignments relative to each other, and are rotatable together to sequentially filter the directed light to display an image.”

The Examiner refers to page 3, paragraph [0013] of Huibers et al., indicating that such paragraph discloses the coaxial relationship as claimed. However, Huibers et al. does not disclose or suggest coaxially coupled first and second color wheels disposed along a single optical path wherein the color wheels are “relatively adjustable to be selectively fixed in one of plural specified angular alignments relative to each other, and are rotatable together to sequentially filter the directed light to display an image.” The rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Huibers et al. thus must be withdrawn. Claims 2-5 and 11-13 depend from claim 9, and thus are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 9.

Claim 18, as amended, recites a method of displaying an image including: "providing an illumination source; directing light from the illumination source along an optical path; and sequentially filtering the directed light with at least one of plural cooperative color filters by altering the optical path to coincide with only a selected one of plural color filters."

The Examiner asserts that page 1, paragraph [0013] (of Huibers et al.) discloses such altering of the optical path to coincide with a selected one of plural color filters. Applicants respectfully disagree, noting that none of the Huibers et al. does not even consider a changing optical path. Nevertheless, applicants have amended claim 1 to more clearly recite "altering the optical path to coincide with only a selected one of plural color filters." Inasmuch as Huibers et al. requires dual color filters (rather than selection of one color filter over the other), claim 18 is allowable over Huibers et al., and the rejection of claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Huibers et al. must be withdrawn.

Claim 20 recites a sequential color filter system for filtering light directed along an optical path, the sequential color filter system comprising: "a first color wheel having a plurality of color regions; and a second color wheel having a plurality of color regions including at least one white region; each of the first and second color wheels being individually selectable to sequentially filter the light directed along the optical path.

As noted generally above with respect to claim 6, Huibers et al. does not disclose or suggest color wheels that are "individually selectable" to sequentially filter the light directed along the optical path. The rejection of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Huibers et al. thus must be withdrawn. Claims 21-23 depend from claim 20, and thus are allowable over Huibers et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 20.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Based on Davis

Claims 1-8, 17-18, 20-23, 26 and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Davis (U.S. 6,813,087).

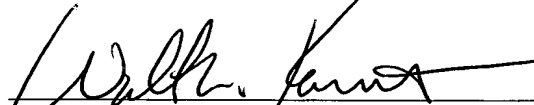
In view of the Examiner's citing of Davis, applicants submit herewith a Declaration Under §1.131, which demonstrates their invention prior to the effective date of Davis.(December 31, 2001). Davis thus is rendered unavailable as prior art. The Examiners rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Davis thus should be withdrawn. It is noted that independent claim 17 stands rejected only based on Davis, and thus is understood to be allowable in its current form.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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